

District-Level Support for Family and Community Engagement Self-Assessment

HOW WELL DOES YOUR DISTRICT SUPPORT FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

Instructions: Please place a ✓ in the box beside each statement that best applies to your school.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY				
1. The District has a strong policy that sets standards for what partnerships in schools should include and lays out a process for making sure that schools meet the standards.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Parental involvement is clearly defined and means more than parents being their children’s “first teachers”.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The policy commits the District to offer certain programs and opportunities for families, staff, and community members.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Parents have the right to observe in classrooms, attend faculty meetings, and take part in professional development.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIGH-LEVEL LEADERSHIP				
5. The Director of Family and Community Engagement is an Assistant or Deputy Superintendent and reports directly to the Superintendent.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The Director’s staff members are full-time and can cover all schools in the District; they have the skills to offer professional development to schools on engaging families effectively.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Principals are required to have credentials and experience in engaging diverse families.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Schools with high levels of parent, family, and community engagement are recognized and rewarded.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCOUNTABILITY				
9. All schools are required to appoint an Action Team of staff and parents who represent the school’s diversity to build and sustain parental involvement.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Principals are evaluated, in part, on how well the school engages families and community members and organizations.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. An annual survey assesses family opinions about the school and what supports they need to become more involved.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. The annual survey data are correlated with student outcome data (including test scores) to develop programs for families that are linked to student learning.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. The District uses a walk-through process to help schools assess how family-friendly they are.					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>	This will be hard
SUPPORT AND RESOURCES					
14. Professional development and technical assistance on all aspects of family and community engagement are available for administrators, teachers, and parents.					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>	This will be hard
15. Funding to plan and carry out family involvement activities is built into the District's budget. Family involvement does not depend on "soft money".					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>	This will be hard
16. The District has a well-developed and easy-to-use website so that schools and families can contact staff, obtain important information, and download useful materials.					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>	This will be hard
17. The District offers incentives, such as small action grants, to develop new programs and activities.					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>	This will be hard
18. The District showcases best practice, such as at conferences where schools exhibit their programs and describe the results, and in publications and on the website. There are awards for schools and staff that have made the most progress.					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Already doing this	<input type="checkbox"/>	Could do this easily	<input type="checkbox"/>	This will be hard

In which areas is your District doing well? Which ones will need more work?

How are parents and parent organizations involved at the District level to promote effective family and community engagement?

What are your concerns?

REFLECTION: What steps could you take to start, support, scale up, or sustain a District-wide initiative?

In the short-term:

Over the long term:
